

Notes of the Appleby Fair Multi-Agency Strategic Co-ordinating Group held on Tuesday 28 February 2023

Attendance: Les Clark, Eden District Council (Chair)
Louise Biggs, Eden District Council
Steph Cordon, Barrow Borough Council
Councillor Phil Dew, Cumbria County Council
Councillor Graham Simpkins, Eden District Council
Matthew Kennerley, Cumbria Constabulary
Emma Brass, Eden District Council
Neil Buck, Eden District Council
Laura McClellan, Cumbria County Council Highways
Bill Lloyd, Gypsy & Traveller Representative
Dan McAulay, Eden District Council
Kellie Bradburn-Sims, Cumbria County Council
Neil Graham, Cumbria Constabulary
Lee Skelton, Cumbria Constabulary
Amanda McKirdy, Cumbria Constabulary
Neil Aitken, Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service
Steve Wilde, Eden District Council
John Banks, Cumbria County Council Highways
Sue Warner, South Lakeland District Council
Ross Woods, Cumbria Constabulary

Before the start of the meeting, LC introduced Steph Cordon who was the Director of Thriving Communities in the new Westmorland & Furness Council. Steph would be taking over the role as Chair of MASCG from 1 April 2023.

1. Apologies

Billy Welch, Gypsy & Traveller Representative
Nick Wright, Cumbria County Council

2. Minutes of MASCG held on 24 January 2023

These were agreed as a true record.

3. Draft Appleby Fair Evaluation Report

LC had circulated the first draft to the group for comments etc. Areas had been highlighted where information was missing - relevant agencies were asked to provide this by the end of the week, including any lessons learned so a revised version could be circulated. The intention was for final sign-off to be given at the next meeting.

4. Appleby Fair Encampment Protocol

The draft Encampment Protocol for 2023 had been updated to incorporate the new policing bill and the current independent review. It was felt that the information on the new policing bill needed better explanation. This would be refined and added to the next agenda for final sign-off.

PD said that on page 3 of the protocol specific reference is made to encampments which give 'cause for concern' to the local community and locations which have 'inherent danger'. The A685 ticks both those boxes and alternative sites should be identified as a matter of urgency before someone is killed or seriously injured. Camping in this location should not be encouraged or tolerated.

5. Communications and Engagement Update

NG was working on comms for the website on the new policing bill which would set out expectations on the management of the powers. Work was also being undertaken on the gold comms strategy for 2023.

6. Operational Working Group Update

a) Highways

The Traffic Management Plan would now come to the March meeting as additional plans were to be added.

b) Parish Engagement

EB/AMK were putting in place a revised method of engagement with Parish Councils. Information on police support, facilities and encampments will be shared with all affected parishes and attendance at meetings would only be by request

c) Licensing

SW gave an update on the potential opening/closing of licensed premises during Phase 1 & 2 of the Fair. Further details would follow when known.

d) South Lakeland

It was noted that John Barwise was due to retire shortly with Sue taking over the majority of his duties. She was bringing on board a new team member to help with this going forward.

The Respect meeting at Sedbergh had taken place - two Councillors had indicated that they would like to attend MASCG. It would be for the new Westmorland & Furness Council to decide on the political community representatives.

It was noted that Scroggs Bank field may have a new owner next year - a covenant would be put in place so that it could still be used by the Gypsy/Travellers as a stop over.

7. Any Other Business

a) Update on Children in charge of Sulkies

MK gave an update on this issue. There was no lower age limit for children being in charge of sulkies on public roads. Section 49 of the Highway Code could be used as enforcement if it was just a horse. The challenge with enforcement would be where the child was not accompanied by an adult.

b) Feedback from Meeting with Consultations held on 16 February

PD/EB gave feedback from the meeting that had taken place with Steve Jarman. It had been a bit disappointing in that they felt the approach hadn't been thought through very well. It had been suggested that he contact the relevant affected Town/Parish Councils. LC would speak with him further. BL said that no approach had yet been made to himself/BW.

c) Funding for Toilets

BL said that funding for supplementary toilets in Appleby had been granted by ISOR of £9,000 for EDC and £1,000 for Appleby Town Council for two years. NB would pick this up with the Finance Team.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 27 March 2023 at 2.00pm.